

REMARKS

This response is filed in response to an Office Action dated March 24, 2005 issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above identified application. A response to the Office Action was due June 24, 2003. Accordingly this amendment is being timely filed.

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner.

Claims 1-65 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 12, 14-16, 21, 27, 39-43, 47, 54 and 58-63 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

Claim 1 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of US Patent No; 6,311,305 B1 ('305) in view of Kim (US 6,694,023).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow:

The doctrine of double patenting is primarily intended to prevent the prolongation of a patent term by prohibiting claims *not patentable distinguishing from claims in the first patent* (emphasis added). The doctrine further seeks to allow the public free use not only of the expired patent but "of modifications which would have been *obvious at the time the invention was made, taking into account the skill in the art and prior art other than the invention claimed in the issued patent*" (emphasis added).

A comparison of claim 1 (as amended) of the present application with claim 1 of the '305 patent shows that double patenting rejection is not applicable in this case.

Claim 1 (as amended) of the present application states:

1. A method for producing a signature on a DVD disc comprising:
partially disabling error correction prior to EFM+ encoding; and
introducing at least one ambiguous symbol into an ECC block during EFM+ encoding, said ambiguous symbol having a value which can be read as either a first value or a second alternate value.

Claim 1 of the '305 patent states:

A method for overriding error correction on a digital optical medium, the method comprising the steps of:

prior to EFM encoding, determining the error-correction code codeword in which a non-correctable predetermined symbol is to be contained and causing a non-correctable pattern of erroneous symbols to occur in the error-correction code codeword; and

following EFM encoding, storing the predetermined symbol and said pattern of erroneous symbols on the digital optical medium.

Claim 1 of the '305 patent consists of two steps; the second step of which comprises the step of "storing the predetermined symbol and pattern of erroneous symbols on the digital optical medium following EFM encoding" (emphasis added). In other words, the method effectively consists of three steps, that is: "prior to EFM encoding", "encoding itself" and "after encoding". The "encoding" step is not part of claim 1 of the '305 patent.

In contrast, claim 1 of the present application is limited to a DVD and comprises a step prior to EFM+ encoding and a second step which occurs during encoding (emphasis added).

In other words, the present application refers to a two-step method, while the '305 patent refers to a three-step method.

As the Examiner has pointed out, the '305 patent does not teach EFM+ encoding. Furthermore, the present application does not include an additional step of EFM+ encoding. The teachings of Kim do not overcome the deficiencies of the '305 patent.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 of the present application is patentable distinguishable from claim 1 in the '305 patent and that the double patenting objection is moot.

Applicants respectfully request that the double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

Drawings

A full set of drawing replacement sheets is hereby submitted.

Claim Objections

Claims 58 and 59 are objected to because of informalities. Claims 58 and 59 have been amended as suggested, thereby overcoming the cited objections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

Claims 12, 14 and 15 are rejected to under 35 USC §112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 12, 14 and 15 have been amended. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action that another step is needed after comparison. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12 and 14 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Applicants respectfully request that the claim rejections under 35 USC §112 second paragraph be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ueda et al. (US Patent No: 6,289,102).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

Claim 16 has been amended and recites a method for producing a signature on a digital optical disc (DVD), the method comprising altering the value of at least one component in the lead-in zone of the DVD, such that the DVD structure of a valid DVD will return the altered value of the component, whereas a non valid DVD will return a different value.

Ueda et al describes an information recording medium with a lead-in area that stores a descrambling key for unscrambling data stored in the data recording area. The key enables the data to be unscrambled.

In contrast, the present invention teaches alterations of values of fields within the lead-in area, as defined in the DVD specification.

Ueda et al, does not describe nor suggest altering the value of at least one component in the lead-in zone of the DVD for the purpose of disc authentication.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited by the Examiner, that is, Ueda et al, does not anticipate Applicant's amended claim 1. Since claims 2-11 depend from independent claim 1, claims 2-11 cannot be anticipated for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 39-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Isozaki (US 5,196,613). Claims 39-43 have been amended.

Claim 39 (as amended) discloses a table for encoding 8-bit data into 16-bit encoded data, which comprises at least one 16-bit encoded data generally capable of being read in at least two alternative ways, thereby returning the value of at least two different 8-bit decoded data.

Claim 42 as amended) discloses a table for use with an EFM+ encoder, which comprises means for encoding 8-bit data into 16-bit encoded data, at least one 16-bit encoded data generally capable of being read in one of at least two possible ways.

Claims 39 and 42 may best be understood with reference to Fig. 4, para 167, and Appendix A. Using a data value of 120, Ecma-267 (table G.1, state 1) encodes 120 into the 16-bit sequence "0000100000010001". In the present invention, the transition corresponding to the 2nd '1' (12th bit from left) is shifted to the right by an amount less than a unit width. (See Ambiguity table, p. 15 of the application). The resulting 16 bit codeword read from the disc might be then be read as "0000100000010001" (the original value) or alternatively it might be "*misread*" as "0000100000001001" due to the one-half unit shift to the right.

Isozaki describes an 8 to 16 bit encoder. The 16-bit codewords in the cited references can each be **read** in only one way, although they may **decode** into more than one 8-bit data word. For example in Isozaki's Tables 2 and 3, the top line of Table 2 shows the 8-bit value 120 encoded into the 16-bit sequence 0111000111100011 while Table 3 shows the same 8-bit value 120 encoded into a different 16-bit sequence 1000111000011100. The first encoding has a CDS (codeword digital sum) of +2 (2 more 1's than 0's, 9 vs 7) whereas the second encoding has a CDS of -2 (2 fewer 1's than 0's, 7 vs 9). To enable fulfilling RLL and DSV constraints, in a given situation (depending on previous and next data) it may be required to encode 120 as per table 2, while in a different situation it may be required to encode 120 as per table 3. Whichever encoding is selected, the codeword 0111000111100011 should **always** be read uniquely as 0111000111100011, and the codeword 1000111000011100 should **always** be read uniquely as 1000111000011100.

Isozaki does not describe nor suggest encoding 8-bit data into 16-bit encoded data, which is capable of being read in at least two alternative ways, thereby returning the value of at least two different 8-bit decoded data.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited by the Examiner, that is, Isozaki, does not anticipate Applicant's amended claims 39 and 42.

Since claims 40-41 and claim 43 depend from independent claims 39 and independent claim 42, respectively, claims 40-41 and claim 43 cannot be anticipated for the reasons described above with respect to claims 39 and 42.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 1, 54, 60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al (US 6,539,475) in view of Williams et al. (US 2001/00422300 and Oshima et al (US 6,266,299).

Claims 58-59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al (US 6,539,475) Williams et al. (US 2001/00422300 and Oshima et al (US 6,266,299) as applied to claim 54 and further in view of Mueller et al (US 6,188,659) and Masaki et al. (US 6,275,462).

Applicants believe that these rejections have been overcome in view of the remarks that follow.

Claim 1 has been amended and recites: "A method for producing a signature on a DVD disc comprising partially disabling error correction prior to EFM+ encoding; and introducing at least one ambiguous symbol into an ECC block during EFM+ encoding. The symbol is considered ambiguous since, on being read, the symbol may return one of two different values.

Cox describes a data protection method and system using watermarking to hide a "trigger signal." The data to be protected is scrambled, and the trigger is added either before or after the data is scrambled. (Figs. 1a, 1b). In playback, the trigger is detectable in both the scrambled and unscrambled data.

The Examiner states that "Cox teaches a method for producing a signature on a DVD disc comprising introducing at least one ambiguous symbol". Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that the inventive features disclosed and claimed in the present application are neither described nor suggested by Cox et al. Cox et al does not disclose or suggest the use of a symbol which may return one of two different values.

As the Office Action concedes, Cox et al does not teach the use of partially disabling error correction. The Office Action relies on Williams et al for teaching this feature. Williams describes a sector validation method and system for hard disks. The method locates "good" sectors on a disk by writing to the sector, then reading the sector data with ECC

enabled and with ECC disabled in the hard disk controller. If the data read is identical, then the sector is considered error free.

Williams et al. does not disclose or suggest the step of partially disabling error correction during encoding. Furthermore, Williams et al. does not overcome the deficiencies of Cox et al and does not disclose or suggest the use of a symbol which may return one of two different values.

The Office Action concedes that Cox et al does not teach the use of EFM+ encoding and ECC. The Office Action further concedes that Williams et al. does not teach partially disabling error correction prior to EFM+ encoding. The Examiner relies on Oshima et al for teaching "EFM+ encoding". Oshima et al does not overcome the deficiencies of Cox et al and/or Williams et al. and does not disclose or suggest the use of a symbol which may return one of two different values.

It is well established that obviousness requires a teaching or a suggestion by the relied upon prior art of all the elements of a claim (M.P.E.P. §2142). Without conceding the appropriateness of the combination, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Cox et al. and/or Williams et al and Oshima et al. does not meet the requirements of an obvious rejection in that neither teaches nor suggests, alone or in combination, a method for producing a signature on a DVD disc comprising partially disabling error correction prior to EFM+ encoding; and introducing at least one ambiguous symbol into an ECC block during EFM+ encoding; wherein the ambiguous symbol may return one of two different values on being read.

Since neither, alone or in combination, Cox et al. and/or Williams et al and Oshima et al teach all the elements of independent claim 1, the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* showing that Cox et al (US 6,539,475) in view of Williams et al. (US 2001/00422300 and Oshima et al (US 6,266,299) suggest every feature of claim 1.

Since claims 2-11 depend from claim 1, Applicants believe the rejection of these claims has been overcome for at least the same reason.

Claim 54 (as amended) discloses a disc comprising a signature which is produced by the method of claim 1. Similarly, claim 60 (as amended) discloses a disc having means for producing a signature on a DVD disc. The signature is produced by the method of claim 1.

The arguments discussed above with respect to claim 1 are applicable with respect to claims 54 and 60. Thus, Applicants believe the rejection of independent claims 54 and 60

and claims 55-59, which depend from claim 54, have been overcome for at least the same reason.

Claims 2-11, 55, 56 and 57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al (US 6,539,475) in view of Williams et al. (US 2001/00422300 and Oshima et al (US 6,266,299) applied to claim 1 and 54 above and further in view of Demura et al. (US 6,357,030).

Demura does not teach or suggest computing an ECC Block with data and parity values different from those determined through ECMA-267. Furthermore, Demura does not overcome the deficiencies of Cox et al and/or Williams et al. and/or Oshima et al. with respect to claims 1, 54 and 60. Demura neither teaches nor suggests a method for producing a signature on a DVD disc comprising partially disabling error correction prior to EFM+ encoding; and introducing at least one ambiguous symbol into an ECC block during EFM+ encoding; wherein the ambiguous symbol may return one of two different values on being read.

Since claims 2-11 depend from claim 1, and claims 55-57 depend from claim 54, Applicants believe the rejection of claims 2-11 and 55-57 has been overcome and these claims are allowable.

Claims 12-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mueller et al (US 6,188,659) in view of Masaki et al. (US 6,275,462).

Claim 12 discloses a method for validating a signature on a DVD which compares the number of reads for at least one unprocessed sector within the ECC block to be read correctly with the number of reads for at least one processed sector within the ECC block to be read correctly. The ECC block comprises a partially disabled ECC written on to the DVD.

Claim 14 discloses a method for validating a signature on a DVD which compares the time to successfully read at least one unprocessed sector within the ECC block with the time to read at least one processed sector within said ECC block, wherein said ECC block comprises a partially disabled ECC written on to the DVD.

As the Office Action concedes, Mueller et al does not teach comparing the number of reads for at least one unprocessed sector within the ECC block to be read correctly with the number of reads for at least one processed sector within the ECC block to be read correctly. Consequently, Mueller et al does not contain any teaching or suggestion of the use of processed sectors within the ECC block. Furthermore, Mueller et al does not contain any teaching or suggestion of the use of writing a partially disabled ECC on to a DVD.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that, since Masaki et al reads from processed sectors only and will not work with unprocessed sectors is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of the use of comparing processed sectors with unprocessed sectors.

Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves, or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed Cir. 1992).

Applicants respectfully submit that Mueller et al does not contain any teaching or suggestion of any part of claims 12 or 14. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Mueller et al and Masaki et al do not meet the requirements of a *prima facie* showing of obviousness since there is no motivation to combine their teachings.

Since claims 13-15 depend from claim 12 or claim 14, Applicants believe the rejection of these claims has been overcome for at least the same reason.

Claims 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda et al. (US Patent no: 6,289,102) as applied to claim 16 and further in view of Tsumagari et al. (US 6,360,057).

As discussed above, Ueda et al, does not describe nor suggest altering the value of at least one component in the lead-in zone of the DVD for the purpose of disc authentication.

Tsumagari et al. describes a standard BCA descriptor from ECMA-267 specification. Tsumagari et al. does not overcome the deficiencies of Ueda et al and does not disclose or suggest altering the value of at least one component in the lead-in zone of the DVD for the purpose of disc authentication.

Thus, since the rejection of independent claim 16 has been overcome and since claims 17-20 depend from claim 16, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of these claims has also been overcome for at least the same reasons.

Claims 21, 25, 27, 31, 44, 61-63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikinis (US Patent no: 5,563,947) in view of Maeda et al. (US 6,072,759).

Claim 21 (as amended) discloses a method for producing a signature on a digital optical disc (DVD), which comprises non-destructively altering the content of at least one sector in the data zone of the DVD during encoding so that said at least one sector is generally unreadable.

Kikinis describes a destructive means of rendering a sector unreadable (see Abstract). His implementation includes a high-power laser capable of destroying sectors on a CD-PROM disc. He does not teach or imply any non-destructive means of rendering sectors unreadable.

Furthermore, as the Office Action concedes, Kikinis does not teach the use of a digital optical disc (DVD). The Examiner relies on Maeda et al. for teaching DVD. However, Maeda et al. does not teach or suggest non-destructively altering the content of at least one sector in the data zone of the DVD during encoding so that said at least one sector is generally unreadable. Thus, Maeda et al. does not overcome the limitations of Kikinis.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Kikinis and/or Maeda et al does not meet the requirements of an obvious rejection in that neither teaches nor suggests, alone or in combination, all the elements of claim 21. Since claim 25 is dependent from claim 21, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 25 has also been overcome for at least the same reasons.

Claim 27 (as amended) discloses a method for producing a signature on a digital optical disc (DVD) comprising appending at least one sector in the data zone of the DVD and amending the sector in the data zone of the DVD so that the sector is generally unreadable. The steps of appending and amending are performed during encoding.

Reference is made to Kikinis (col 3, lines 45-48) for teaching "appending or replacing at least one sector". Applicants respectfully submit that this is incorrect and that Kikinis describes "programming the digital key into the CD-ROM disk after manufacture of the CD-ROM disk by altering selected sectors on the CD-ROM disk to be unreadable". Clearly, sectors cannot be appended after manufacture of the CD-ROM disk.

In contrast, the present application teaches appending extra sectors to the data area during manufacturing, and rendering one or more of them unreadable.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Kikinis and/or Maeda et al does not meet the requirements of an obvious rejection in that neither teaches nor suggests, alone or in combination, all the elements of claim 27. Since claim 31 is dependent from claim 27, .

Claim 44 discloses a DVD encoder comprising a non-standard sector generator.

Kikinis describes altering a sector after manufacture, which is after the disc has been encoded. Neither Kikinis nor Maeda et al teaches nor suggests a DVD encoder comprising a non-standard sector generator.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Kikinis nor Maeda et al do not meet the requirements of a *prima facie* showing of obviousness since there is no motivation to combine their teachings.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Kikinis and/or Maeda et al does not meet the requirements of an obvious rejection in that neither teaches nor suggests, alone or in combination, the element of claim 44.

Claim 61 (as amended) discloses a DVD disc comprising a signature having at least one altered component in the lead-in zone of the DVD, wherein the alteration is performed during encoding.

Claim 62 (as amended) discloses a DVD disc comprising at least one altered sector in the data zone of the DVD. The sector is generally unreadable and the alteration of the sector is generated during encoding.

Claim 63 (as amended) discloses a DVD disc comprising at least one appended sector in the data zone of the DVD and at least one amended sector in the data zone of the DVD. The sector is generally unreadable and the appended and amended sectors are generated during encoding.

As discussed above, Kikinis describes altering a sector after manufacture, which is after the disc has been encoded.

Neither Kikinis nor Maeda et al., alone or in combination teaches nor suggests a DVD disc having altered, amended or appended sectors which are generated during encoding.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Kikinis and/or Maeda et al does not meet the requirements of an obvious rejection in that neither teaches nor suggests, alone or in combination, all the elements of claims 61, 62 or 63.

Claims 22, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30, 32, 45, 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikinis (US Patent no: 5,563,947) in view of Maeda et al. (US 6,072,759) as applied to claims 21 and 44 and further in view of Newman (US 6,353,890).

Kikinis and Maeda et al. have been discussed above and are applicable here. Newman does not teach or suggest non-destructively altering the content of at least one sector in the data zone of the DVD during encoding so that said at least one sector is generally unreadable (claim 21).

Similarly, Newman does not teach or suggest a method for producing a signature on a digital optical disc (DVD) comprising appending at least one sector in the data zone of the

DVD and amending the sector in the data zone of the DVD so that the sector is generally unreadable. The steps of appending and amending are performed during encoding (claim 27).

Nor does Newman teach or suggest DVD encoder comprising a non-standard sector generator (claim 44).

Thus, since Newman does not overcome the limitations of Kikinis and Maeda et al. and since claims 22, 23, 24 and 26, are dependent from claim 21, claims 28, 29, 30, and 32 are dependent from claim 27 and claims 45 and 46 from claim 44, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 22, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30, 32, 45, 46 have also been overcome for at least the same reasons.

Claims 33, 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al (US 6,539,475) in view of Choo et al. (US 2002/0060874).

Claim 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al (US 6,539,475) and Choo et al. (US 2002/0060874) as applied to claim 33 and further in view of Williams et al. (US 2001/00422300 and Oshima et al (US 6,266,299).

Claims 35-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al (US 6,539,475) and Choo et al. (US 2002/0060874) as applied to claim 33 and further in view of Demura et al. (US 6,357,030).

Claim 33 discloses a method for producing a signature on a digital optical disc (DVD) comprising generating at least one sector, each of the generated sectors generally requiring at least two read operations to be read correctly.

Claim 53 discloses a DVD disc comprising at least one sector, configured to generally require at least two read operations to be read correctly.

Cox et al. describes a data protection method and system using watermarking to hide a "trigger signal." The data to be protected is scrambled, and the trigger is added either before or after the data is scrambled. (Figs. 1a, 1b). In playback, the trigger is detectable in both the scrambled and unscrambled data.

As the Office Action concedes, Cox et al. does not teach the generation of at least one sector, each of the generated sectors generally requiring at least two read operations to be read correctly.

Choo et al. describes reading a group of sectors in a first revolution of the disk, noting which sectors contain errors, then, if there are errors, reading the erroneous sectors in a second revolution of the disk. According to Choo et al., a sector with a hard error (physical defect) won't ever be read correctly, and a sector with no physical defects could be read

correctly the first read. Choo et al. does not teach or suggest the generation of sectors generally requiring at least two read operations to be read correctly. Thus, Choo et al. does not overcome the deficiencies of Cox et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Cox et al and/or Choo et al. does not meet the requirements of an obvious rejection in that neither teaches nor suggests, alone or in combination, all the elements of either of claims 33 or 53.

Williams et al., Oshima et al and Demura et al. have been discussed above and are relevant here. Neither of these references overcomes the deficiencies of Cox et al. and/or Choo et al.

Since claims 34-38 dependent from claim 33, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 34-38 have also been overcome for at least the same reasons.

Claim 47 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. (US 6,072,759) in view of Williams et al. (US 2001/00422300 and Cox et al (US 6,539,475).

Claim 48 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. (US 6,072,759) in view of Williams et al. (US 2001/00422300 and Cox et al (US 6,539,475) as applied to claim 47 and further in view of Demura et al. (US 6,357,030).

Claim 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. (US 6,072,759) in view of Williams et al. (US 2001/00422300 and Cox et al (US 6,539,475) as applied to claim 47 and further in view of Kim (6,694,023)

Claim 47 (as amended) discloses a DVD encoder comprising an error correction disabler; and an ambiguous symbol generator, wherein said generated ambiguous symbol has a value which can be read as either a first value or a second alternate value.

Maeda et al., Williams et al and Cox et al. have been discussed above and are relevant here.

As the Office Action concedes, Maeda et al. does not teach the use of an error correction disabler or an ambiguous symbol generator. Cox et al does not disclose or suggest an ambiguous symbol generator for generating an ambiguous symbol which may return one of two different values or error correction disabler. Williams et al does not disclose or suggest generating an ambiguous symbol or an error correction disabler.

Applicants respectfully submit that any combination of Maeda et al., Williams et al. and Cox et al does not meet the requirements of an obvious rejection in that neither teaches nor suggests, alone or in combination, all the elements of claim 47.

Since claims 48 and 49 are dependent from claim 47, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 48 and 49 has also been overcome for at least the same reasons. Furthermore, neither Demura et al. nor Kim overcome the deficiencies of Maeda et al., Williams et al. and Cox et al.

Claim 52 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. (US 6,072,759) in view of Newman (US 6,353,890).

Claim 52 recites a DVD encoder comprising an invalid Reed-Solomon parity symbol generator.

As the Office Action concedes, Maeda et al. does not teach the use of an invalid Reed-Solomon parity symbol generator. Newman col. 6, lines 55-57 (cited by examiner) describes the standard CIRC encoding-decoding method used in CD-ROMs. Newman col. 5, lines 25-31 (cited by examiner) discuss high-level errors applied **before** error encoding.

In contrast, claim 52 teaches applying low-level errors **during** encoding. By definition, a Reed-Solomon parity symbol generator is a basic component of an encoder (See Ecma-267 Section 18 ECC block).

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Maeda et al and Newman does not meet the requirements of an obvious rejection in that neither teaches nor suggests, alone or in combination, all the elements of claim 52.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

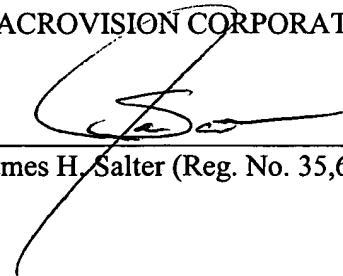
In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over the art of record and are now in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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